

NATURAL HISTORY OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 11

A Checklist of the Mammals of Alberta (Revised 1989)



Hugh C. Smith



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APR - 2 1990

Provincial Museum of Alberta

Natural History

Occasional Paper No. 11

1989

A CHECKLIST OF THE MAMMALS OF ALBERTA

(Revised 1989)

Hugh C. Smith

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Prepared and Published by:

Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845-102 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 0M6

NATURAL HISTORY OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES

Occasional Paper titles are Published by the Provincial Museum of Alberta on subjects pertaining to the natural history of Alberta. Potential contributors are requested to submit manuscript proposals to the Assistant Director, Curatorial, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6.

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CANADIAN CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Smith, Hugh C.

A Checklist of the Mammals of Alberta. -- Rev.

(Provincial Museum of Alberta natural history occasional paper, ISSN 0838-5971 ; no. 11)

Bibliography: p.

ISBN 0-7732-0320-6

1. Mammals - Alberta. I. Provincial Museum of Alberta. Natural History Section. II. Title. III. Series: Natural History occasional paper ; no. 11

QL721.5.A3 S64 1989 599.097123

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. J.A. Burns and R.I. Hastings read early drafts of this paper and made several useful comments, R.I. Hastings designed the final layout, and Colleen Steinhilber typed the manuscript. The assistance of these people is greatly appreciated. Dr. W.B. McGillivray reviewed drafts and supported the publication of this paper in the Occasional Paper series.

INTRODUCTION

An update to Soper (1964), *The Mammals of Alberta*, listing changes in the nomenclature of mammals found in Alberta is given in Smith (1985), *A Checklist of Alberta Mammals*. Since 1985 a number of name changes have occurred and an additional species has been found in Alberta (Smith 1988). As the 1985 checklist is out-of-print, and there have been frequent requests for copies, this revised checklist has been prepared. In this current checklist, 91 species of mammals are recognized as having occurred in the recent past or do now occur in Alberta and for which a museum specimen record exists.

A checklist provides a ready reference to the mammals that occur in a region. As such, it is useful to both professional and amateur biologists and is especially helpful to students who may be just starting their study of mammals.

This checklist follows the arrangement of the previous checklist (Smith 1985). Jones et al. (1986) is used for scientific names and Smith (1985) for common English names. Explanations are provided where this checklist differs from Jones et al. (1986) and Smith (1985).

Jones et al. (1986) followed a taxonomic arrangement for the Order, Family, and Genus categories and an alphabetic arrangement at the Species level. In this checklist I follow a taxonomic arrangement for all categories.

Insectivora (Shrews)

Smith (1988) reported on the first occurrence of the Wandering Shrew (*Sorex vagrans*) in Alberta. The name *Sorex vagrans* was used by Soper (1964) for the Dusky Shrew (*Sorex monticolus*). Smith (1988) gives a brief account of the confusion in names applied to the *vagrans-monticolus* complex with respect to Alberta. Jones et al. (1986) used the

common name "Vagrant Shrew" for this species. I have followed van Zyll de Jong (1983) and have used the name "Wandering Shrew."

Rodents

In Smith (1985) it was pointed out that there was no consensus with respect to the number of families of rodents. The area of dispute that affects the classification of Alberta mammals pertains to the Cricetidae, Muridae, and Arvicolidae families. No recent studies have been published to shed any new light on this matter; hence, in this checklist, I am continuing to use Cricetidae for the New World mice and voles and Muridae for the Old World mice and rats.

Recent investigations into the phylogeny of chipmunks have shown that all chipmunks belong to the genus *Tamias* (Levenson et al. 1985, Nadler et al. 1985). I am, therefore, using the name *Tamias* in place of *Eutamias* for the chipmunks found in Alberta.

Jones et al. (1986) use the generic name *Lemmiscus* in place of *Lagurus* for the Sagebrush Vole. Because of a lack of recent research on this species, the argument to change species names is rather tenuous. I am, therefore, retaining the use of *Lagurus* for the Sagebrush Vole.

Carnivores

Jones et al. (1986) group all North American cats into the genus *Felis*. They do point out, however, that there is no consensus on the use of this name. In light of this, and until an in-depth revision of the family Felidae is undertaken, I have retained the name *Lynx* for the Canada Lynx and Bobcat.

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Class: Mammalia

Order: INSECTIVORA (Shrews)

Family: SORICIDAE

<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Masked Shrew
<i>Sorex haydeni</i>	Prairie Shrew
<i>Sorex monticolus</i>	Dusky Shrew
<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	Wandering Shrew
<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Water Shrew
<i>Sorex arcticus</i>	Arctic Shrew
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew

Order: CHIROPTERA (Bats)

Family: VESPERTILIONIDAE

<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little Brown Bat
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared Bat
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged Bat
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Western Small-footed Bat
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired Bat
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Red Bat
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat

Order: LAGOMORPHA (Pikas, Rabbits, and Hares)

Family: OCHOTONIDAE

<i>Ochotona princeps</i>	Pika
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Family: LEPORIDAE

<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Cottontail
<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Snowshoe Hare
<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	White-tailed Jack Rabbit

Order: RODENTIA (Rodents)

Family: SCIURIDAE

<i>Tamias minimus</i>	Least Chipmunk
<i>Tamias amoenus</i>	Yellow-pine Chipmunk
<i>Tamias ruficaudus</i>	Red-tailed Chipmunk
<i>Marmota monax</i>	Woodchuck

<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Marmot
<i>Marmota caligata</i>	Hoary Marmot
<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Ground Squirrel
<i>Spermophilus columbianus</i>	Columbian Ground Squirrel
<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i>	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
<i>Spermophilus franklinii</i>	Franklin's Ground Squirrel
<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Gray Squirrel ¹
<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Red Squirrel
<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Northern Flying Squirrel
Family: GEOMYIDAE	
<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Northern Pocket Gopher
Family: HETEROMYIDAE	
<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Olive-backed Pocket Mouse
<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Ord's Kangaroo Rat
Family: CASTORIDAE	
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver
Family: CRICETIDAE	
<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Western Harvest Mouse
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse
<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	Northern Grasshopper Mouse
<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	Bushy-tailed Woodrat
<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	Southern Red-backed Vole
<i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Heather Vole
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Meadow Vole
<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>	Long-tailed Vole
<i>Microtus xanthognathus</i>	Yellow-cheeked Vole
<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	Prairie Vole
<i>Microtus richardsoni</i>	Water Vole
<i>Lagurus curtatus</i>	Sagebrush Vole
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Muskrat
<i>Lemmus sibiricus</i>	Brown Lemming
<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>	Northern Bog Lemming
Family: MURIDAE	
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Black Rat ²
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Norway Rat ²
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse ²

Order: RODENTIA (Rodents) - cont.

Family: ZAPODIDAE

Zapus hudsonius

Meadow Jumping Mouse

Zapus princeps

Western Jumping Mouse

Family: ERETHIZONTIDAE

Erethizon dorsatum

Porcupine

Order: CARNIVORA (Carnivores)

Family: CANIDAE

Canis latrans

Coyote

Canis lupus

Gray Wolf

Alopex lagopus

Arctic Fox

Vulpes vulpes

Red Fox

Vulpes velox

Swift Fox³

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Gray Fox⁴

Family: URSIDAE

Ursus americanus

Black Bear

Ursus arctos

Grizzly Bear

Family: PROCYONIDAE

Procyon lotor

Raccoon

Family: MUSTELIDAE

Martes americana

Marten

Martes pennanti

Fisher

Mustela erminea

Ermine

Mustela nivalis

Least Weasel

Mustela frenata

Long-tailed Weasel

Mustela nigripes

Black-footed Ferret⁵

Mustela vison

Mink

Gulo gulo

Wolverine

Taxidea taxus

Badger

Mephitis mephitis

Striped Skunk

Lutra canadensis

River Otter

Family: FELIDAE

Felis concolor

Cougar

Lynx canadensis

Canada Lynx

Lynx rufus

Bobcat

Order: ARTIODACTYLA (Deer, Pronghorn, Bovids)

Family: CERVIDAE

<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Wapiti
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed Deer
<i>Alces alces</i>	Moose
<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Caribou

Family: ANTILOCAPRIDAE

<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn
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Family: BOVIDAE

<i>Bison bison</i>	Bison
<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>	Mountain Goat
<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Bighorn Sheep

Notes:

1. Deliberate introduction by people.
2. Accidental introduction by people.
3. Native population extinct. The present population occurs as a result of a restocking program.
4. Single specimen record.
5. No longer occurs in Alberta.

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